

July 8, 1982

Inspection Memo  
to Coal File

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RE: Union Carbide Corporation  
Hecla Shaft  
ACT/037/043  
San Juan County, Utah

Joe Helfrich and Sandy Pruitt inspected the Hecla Shaft with Claude Thormalen, Bruce Green and Ron Barnett, of Union Carbide on May 18, 1982. This was an annual inspection conducted for an update. The last inspection was conducted on August 1, 1979, prior to shaft construction.

Mr. Thormalen informed the inspectors that the mine shaft is 640 feet deep and the first vent hole is about 1 year old. The 1981 annual report submitted February 2, 1982, indicated that 46,292 tons of waste is stored on site. Most of the waste is stockpiled by over-the-edge dumping within a one-half acre clearing (in section 6) with a topsoil berm along the southern and downgrade perimeter. Another waste stockpile estimated to be 3 to 5 tons is stockpiled closer to the shaft just inside section 5 and within the San Juan County lease #2582 boundary. Mr. Thormalen informed inspectors that San Juan County has required that all ore and waste removed from the county lease area be stored within the lease boundaries.

Water is being pumped from the shaft at approximately 200 gpm, into an interconnected series of six sedimentation ponds excavated in an abandoned gravel pit. There was no evidence of a point discharge from the ponds, but infiltration is likely. Steve McNeal of State Health, informed me that there department is aware of the mine discharge and have inspected and approved the ponds constructed in the gravel pit. The last sample of discharge was obtained about one year ago during shaft construction and no radionuclides were evident. Now that uranium mining is underway, the analysis of the current discharge water is required.

According to the Board order for tentative approval dated December 29, 1978, reclamation techniques during mining operations are to include the employment of revegetation test plots. These test plots have not yet been developed.



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The maps submitted with the annual progress report do not clearly indicate all of the surface facilities and affected acreages observed on site. For example, the sedimentation ponds, the topsoil stockpile and both sets of waste and ore stockpiles are not indicated. A more detailed map is required that will also indicate the drainage plan.

SANDY PRUITT  
FIELD SPECIALIST

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